

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A DD COUNCIL MEMBER?

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month 2023





"DD Awareness Month is a time for the public, especially for those who may only have had limited exposure to the disability world to see how those with disabilities can and have contributed to society".

~Anjie Shelby

ANJANETTE SHELBY

Chair of the Council and Co-Appointee

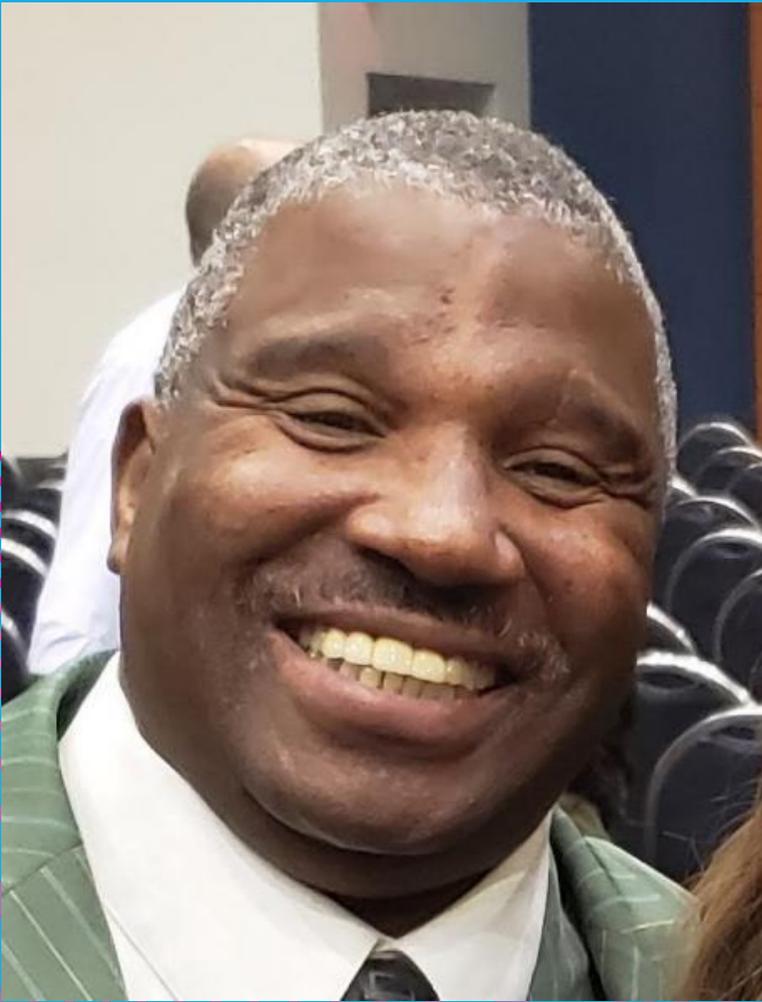


"To me, it means I have an opportunity to make a difference and serve on a team. It's about changing the system and making it better for all people with disabilities. I love my role with the DD Council because it's a very strong advocacy board working together to make our lives better. I feel like I've accomplished something, and I'm still not finished!"

~ Ricardo Thornton

RICARDO THORNTON

VICE-CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL AND CO-CHAIR OF THE ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

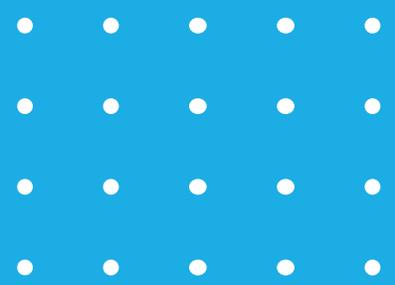


"BEING ON THE DD COUNCIL MEANS I'M DOING MY PART TO BE THERE FOR PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN GROUP HOMES AND THE COMMUNITY, TO MAKE SURE THEY GET WHAT THEY NEED. I CONNECT WITH STAFF WHO WORK WITH PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND HELP THEM WHEN THEY NEED HELP. I WANT TO SEE EVERYTHING RUN SMOOTH IN DC."

~ BERNARD CRAWFORD

BERNARD CRAWFORD

Council Member



“Being a DDC member is all about action and real change. We help make policies that literally change lives.”

~Cheri Mallory

CHERI MALLORY
Council Member



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“As a DD Council Member and Parent of a Young Adult Son diagnosed with Autism and an Intellectual Disability, I am in a unique position. I am able to partner with others in the disability community to advocate for ALL individuals to be fully included and achieve greater independence to live a life of their choosing.”

~Yetta Myrick

YETTA MYRICK
Council Member



"IT MEANS I HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO UNDERSTAND THE ISSUES THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO THE COMMUNITY WE SERVE, TO WORK TOGETHER ENGAGED IN EXCELLENT PROGRAMMING THAT ADDRESSES THOSE ISSUES, AND TO WORK WITH A COMMITTED GROUP OF PEOPLE WORKING TO BRING OUR SOCIETY CLOSER TO EQUALITY AND FULL CIVIL RIGHTS FOR ALL."

~JANE BROWN

JANE BROWN

Chair of the State Plan Implementation Committee and Representative of the Protection and Advocacy Agency - Disability Rights DC at University Legal Services



"AS A COUNCIL MEMBER, AND REPRESENTING THE GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, MEANS I PARTNER WITH AN AMAZING GROUP OF PEOPLE COMMITTED TO EFFECTING MEANINGFUL CHANGE IN THE LIVES OF DIVERSE PERSONS WHO EXPERIENCE INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES TO BE FULLY INCLUDED AND VALUED IN ALL ASPECTS OF COMMUNITY LIFE."

~TAWARA GOODE

TAWARA GOODE

Representative of the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities -
Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development



“The members of DC's Developmental Disability Council share a strong commitment to promoting self-determination for DC residents with disabilities. Collaborating with them to make the District welcoming and inclusive is an honor -- and a lot of fun.”

~Robin Shaffert

ROBIN SHAFFERT

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
(REPRESENTED BY PROXY, TAWARA GOODE)



“Being on the DD Council means connection to the community.”

~Andrew Phillip Reese

ANDREW PHILLIP REESE

REPRESENTATIVE OF A STATE AGENCY - DC DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY SERVICES



“For me it is a privilege to be part of the DC DD council, thank you for giving me the opportunity and being able to learn and grow and help the community that have a disability and their families. and be a bridge of information to those who need it.”

~Berta Mata

BERTA MATA
COUNCIL MEMBER



“I get to advocate for people with disabilities and empower people to make changes.”

~Derrick Simms

DERRICK SIMMS
COUNCIL MEMBER



“Being a DD council member means recognizing that the problems you have as a person with a disability are the domino effect of deeper social issues that need to be examined and addressed. Thus, being on this council means being a believer in social equity!”

~Laraven Gaymon

LARAVEN GAYMON
COUNCIL MEMBER



"To me being on the DD Council is about respecting all voices and being part of a family and community. DD Council makes sure everyone's voices are heard and respected."

~Naisha Dembele

NAISHA DEMBELE
COUNCIL MEMBER



SIBLING 
LEADERSHIP
NETWORK

~ Stephanie Lanham

STEPHANIE LANHAM
COUNCIL MEMBER



~ Uchenna Egenti

UCHENNA EGENTI
COUNCIL MEMBER



~Elisa Peña Zavala

ELISA PEÑA ZAVALA
COUNCIL MEMBER



“Serving the DC DD Council is a great honor. I am energized by the advocacy, perseverance, and love that our community shows. I am lucky to learn, grow, and make positive change with the DD Council. ”

~ Alison Whyte

ALISON WHYTE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



"I believe that the DD Council is a unique organization where together, we can influence the system and make changes to enhance the resources and support provided to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families and improve their quality of life in an inclusive community."

~ Luz Collazo

LUZ ZENAIDA COLLAZO ROSADO
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SPECIALIST



“Me, I'm happy to serve the DC Developmental Disabilities Council as a staff. Working with fantastic council members who make a significant impact on everyone's life is something I love. I'm learning from the council members and my team since I am still new in the position, but the experience has been going great.”

~ Kevin Wright

KEVIN WRIGHT

PROGRAM SUPPORT ASSISTANT



“I feel honored to be part of the DC DD Council staff. I am still learning and growing every day from my team. I am inspired by the work we do every day.”

~Carla McCaskill

CARLA MCCASKILL

PROGRAM SUPPORT SPECIALIST



DD Council Members 2023



THANK YOU!

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